

**Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)**

**Comprehensive Program**

**Program Summary: Full details at:** [**http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fipsecomp/index.html**](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fipsecomp/index.html)

**Full Proposal Deadline** July 29, 2010

**Synopsis of Program:**

Awards are made in a number of areas including: postsecondary education access; retention and completion; student preparation for college; cost-effectiveness; and curricula reform.

**What makes a successful FIPSE Comprehensive Project?**

1. Projects are **innovative** in goal, method, scope, target population, cost, or efficiency.
2. Projects possess **clear and specific goals** that relate to student learning, faculty development, or institutional change.
3. Projects articulate specific objectives that **can be assessed** for success, partial success, or failure in a manner that an educated non-specialist would find convincing.
4. A successful application should have a clear statement about how the proposed project is expected to impact the campus and/or the field **five years** after it has been completed.
5. Projects, if demonstrated to be successful, have **game-changing implications** for how some aspect of postsecondary education is done on a regional or a national level.
6. Projects are **well-managed** and meet all specific grant requirements.
7. Project directors demonstrate that they have made efforts to summarize activities, procedures, and results and then **disseminate** them to the target audience within the postsecondary education community either through presentations, publications, Web sites, or training workshops.

**Additional Information:**The Comprehensive Program is the central grant competition of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). The competition is designed to support innovative reform projects that hold promise as models for the resolution of important issues and problems in postsecondary education.

Several characteristics of the Comprehensive Program make it unique among Federal programs.

* It is inclusive. All nonprofit institutions and organizations offering postsecondary education programs are eligible to receive FIPSE grants. Those grants may be in support of any academic discipline, program, or student support service.
* It is action-oriented. Although FIPSE will consider proposals to assess existing reforms, or to study the feasibility of reforms in the development stage, it does not ordinarily support basic research. The Comprehensive Program supports a wide range of practical reform initiatives and assists grantees in assessing their results and disseminating what is learned to other institutions and agencies.
* It encourages bold thinking and innovative projects. The resources of the Comprehensive Program are devoted to new ideas and practices and to the dissemination of proven innovations to others. FIPSE will support controversial or unconventional projects, as long as they are well justified, carefully designed, and responsibly managed.
* It is responsive to practitioners. In its Agenda for Improvement, FIPSE identifies common issues and problems affecting postsecondary education and invites applicants to address these or other problems imaginatively. The Comprehensive Program welcomes proposals addressing any and all topics of postsecondary improvement and reform.

**Estimated Number of Awards:**    36

**Anticipated Funding Amount:**   $27,307,000

**Average New Award:** $759,000

Some information from the website:

**6. What questions are relevant to the FY 2010 competition?**

1. Where do I apply in FY 2010 for a FIPSE Comprehensive Program grant?

The FIPSE 2010 Comprehensive Program is listed at Grants.gov ([www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) ).  Search for Funding Opportunity Number ED-GRANTS-061410-006.

**How should I organize the Project Narrative section of my application?**

Readers will be completing review sheets with a score and comments for each review criterion.  Therefore, organizing the Project Narrative section of your application by the review criteria will help ensure that readers take into account all information relevant to those criteria.

**FIPSE emphasizes innovative projects.  What does that mean?  Does my application have to include innovative ideas?**

FIPSE is seeking innovative solutions to problems of national significance.  As a Federal agency we seek solutions that may benefit many postsecondary institutions and programs nation-wide and are not limited in their applicability to only a few other organizations.  Your application must propose a model for improving postsecondary education that you will develop, demonstrate, and evaluate.  The model should be based on research and best practice and should include one or more innovative features or components.  It need not be unique, but it must be rarely practiced in your area or discipline.  You should provide a rationale to convince readers of your application that your model and processes for developing and implementing it are likely to be effective and to produce the results you are seeking.

Many innovations are based on ideas or processes borrowed from other areas of national life where they have been proven to be effective.  Because readers of your application will be looking for the innovative aspects of your project, you can help them by including a sentence explicitly noting the innovations and why you consider them to be innovations.  Not addressing innovation may render your application less competitive than other applications with innovative solutions.